



positive and negative environmental impacts associated with

## **silk**

Silk is a natural fibre derived from the silk worm.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• rapidly-renewable resource</li><li>• fibre is used in least-processed state</li><li>• can grow with virtually no insecticides and fertilisers</li><li>• wild (tussah) silk production involves minimal interference with nature</li><li>• naturally flame retardant</li><li>• reusable and biodegradable</li></ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• no local sources available for commercial use</li><li>• commercially available cultivated silk is resource intensive as atmospheres are controlled and rigid growth conditions are employed</li><li>• extraction of the fibres by steaming kills the silk chrysalis</li><li>• the cleaning process involves chemicals and the polluted waste water is usually discharged to the ground water</li></ul>